Trondheim, February 23, 2024

OLEX INTRODUCES FISH MAPPING ECHOSOUNDER

For almost 30 years, fishermen have been able to map the seabed with Olex and now Olex AS has introduced an echosounder that allows fish to become part of the collected data.

With the new echosounder OS1, the fisherman can see all his historical echosoundings.

- Traditional echosounders show the bottom and fish in the water colomn moving from right to left across the screen. As soon as the image passes the left edge, the information is lost. But with OS1 everything is collected and saved, says general manager of Olex AS, Ole B. Hestvik.

Since Olex remembers all pings, you can see over time any patterns in where the fish are. Olex shows the echo data in two ways: a classic sonar image, and all fish on the map as colored "blobs". Watery blue neans no fish, green and yellow. more, and dark red is max. With a slider you can adjust the intensity. The fish markings are transparent, so that the bottom is also visible.

- That way you can see what the bottom below the fish looks like, and maybe get an understanding of why the fish is gathering exactly there.

All data from the sounder are used

Having the sonar image on the screen is a natural way to use Olex.

- Many fishermen have an Olex screen mounted in a window at the back of the wheelhouse, so that they can see it from the deck. Then it is practical to have the sounder there as well.

Olex has always been a echosunder focused system, where the echosoundings are used to build up a seabed map. Since the water column data actually takes up little space in relation to the storage capacity modern computers, Olex can save all the data from the sounder, forever.

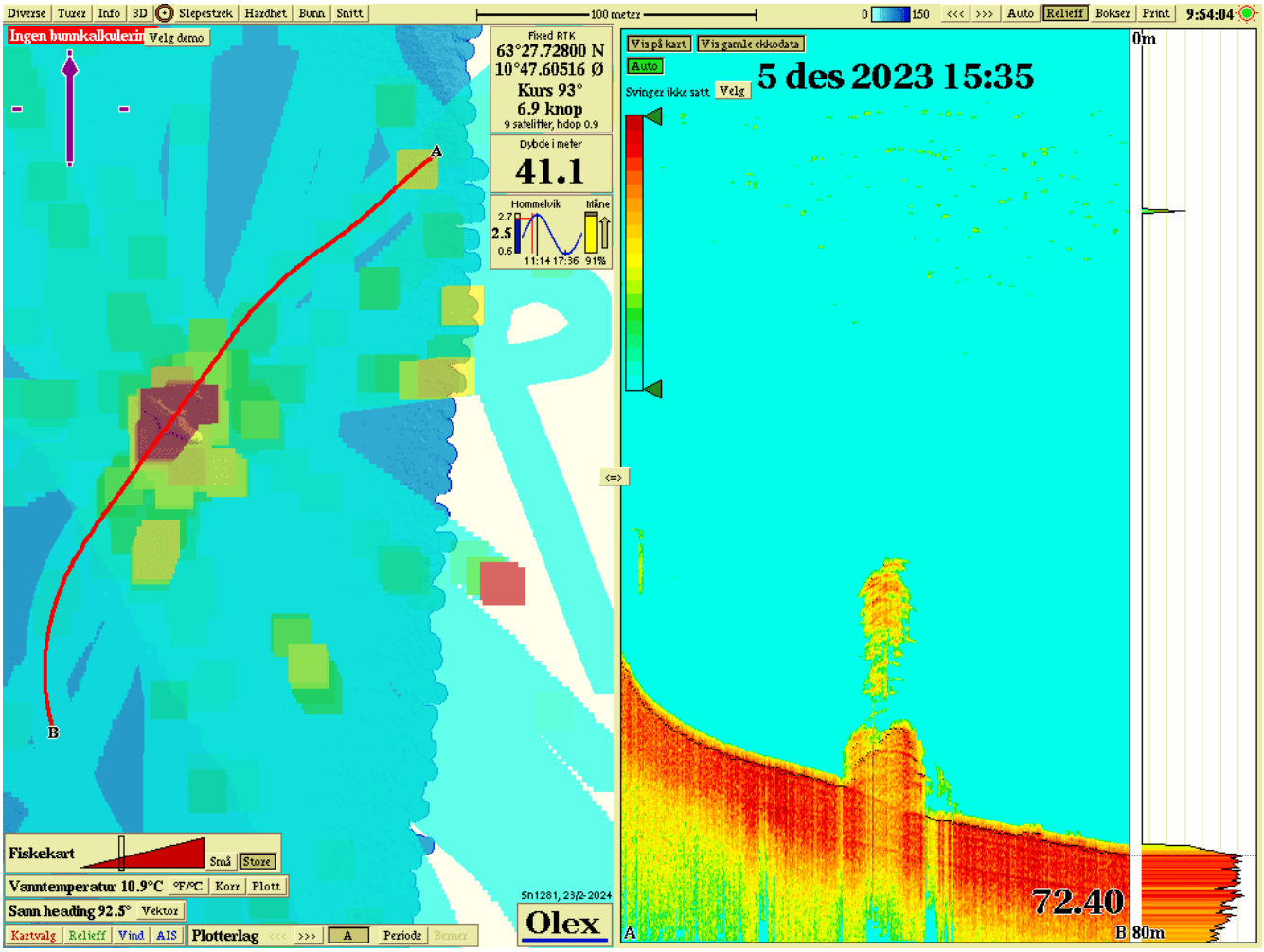
- It is shown on the map where the mouse points to the sonar image. If you click, a mark is dropped. With the push of a button, you can switch between the present and history. By clicking on a fish detection on the map, the historical pings are displayed as they came from the sounder.

Provides increased knowledge of fish behaviour

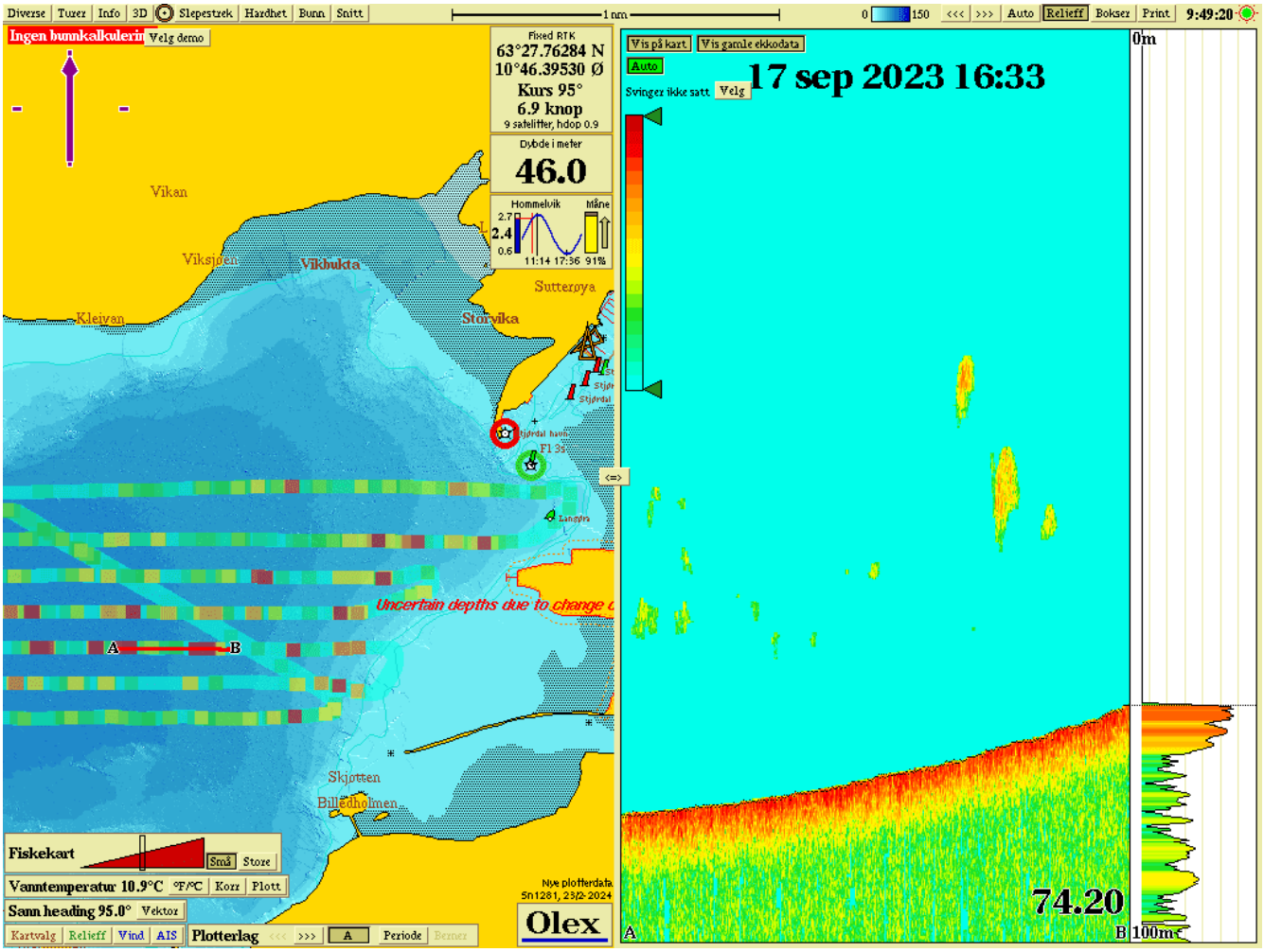
Hestvik believes this will lead to better knowledge of how fish behave. As an example, he tells how OS1 shows fish gathering over a plane wreck on the seabed.

- By passing over the wreck repeatedly over six months, we have seen how the fish always stand in the same place, up to 20-30 meters above the wreck. The plane has been there for 77 years, yet it is like a magnet for fish, while around it the sea is mostly empty.

- Elsewhere in the fjord, there is extensive seine fishing. OS1 shows that, although there are plenty of fish, they are usually 15 meters or higher above the bottom. As if the fish has learned to position itself outside the reach of the fishing gear.



Lots of fish over the airplane wreck. A and B shows the strech displayed on the echogram



Fish in the fjord near Trondheim Airport. Too hight in the water to be catched with seine.